

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

reacting a pigment having attached a first chemical group with a second chemical group to form a pigment having attached a third chemical group;

providing an acylating agent; and

reacting the pigment having attached the third chemical group with ~~[[an]]~~ the acylating agent, wherein

i) the second chemical group reacts with the first chemical group to form the third chemical group, wherein said first chemical group comprises an organic group which comprises at least one electrophile and said second chemical group comprises at least one nucleophile, or vice versa, and the nucleophile reacts with the electrophile,

ii) said pigment having attached a first chemical group is prepared by reacting a diazonium salt having the first chemical group with at least one type of pigment to form said pigment having attached a first chemical group,

iii) the first chemical group, the second chemical group, and the third chemical group each comprises at least one organic group selected from the group consisting of: acyl azides, isocyanates, ketones, aldehydes, anhydrides, amides, imides, imines,  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketones and aldehydes, alkyl halides, epoxides, alkyl sulfates, amines, hydrazines, thiols, hydrazides, oximes, carbanions, and salts thereof, and

iv.) the acylating agent is selected from the group consisting of ~~a carboxylic acid, a derivative of a carboxylic acid and an anhydride of a carboxylic acid~~ and polyacrylic acid.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the first chemical group comprises an alkylsulfate group.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the first chemical group comprises a (2-sulfatoethyl)-sulphone group.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the first chemical group is phenyl-(2-sulfatoethyl)-sulphone.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said second chemical group comprises a polymer.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of: a polyamine, a polyalkylene oxide, a polyol, a polyacrylate, and salts thereof.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the polymer is a polyamine.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the polymer is polyethyleneimine.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein said pigment is carbon black.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said pigment comprises a blue pigment, black pigment, brown pigment, cyan pigment, green pigment, white pigment, violet pigment, magenta pigment, red pigment, yellow pigment, or mixtures thereof.

50-55. (Cancelled).

56. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40, wherein the acylating agent comprises an anhydride a carboxylic acid.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40, wherein the acylating agent comprises a ~~derivative of a carboxylic acid~~ polyacrylic acid.

58. (Cancelled).

59. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:  
reacting a pigment having attached a first chemical group with a second chemical group to form a pigment having attached a third chemical group;  
providing an acylating agent; and  
reacting the pigment having attached the third chemical group with ~~[[an]]~~ the acylating agent,  
wherein the first chemical group reacts with the second chemical group to form the third chemical group, and the acylating agent is selected from the group consisting of a carboxylic acid, a derivative of a carboxylic acid and an anhydride of a carboxylic acid and polyacrylic acid.

60. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59, wherein the acylating agent comprises an anhydride of a carboxylic acid.

61. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59, wherein the acylating agent comprises a ~~derivative of a carboxylic acid~~ polyacrylic acid.

62. (Cancelled).

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the first chemical group comprises an alkylsulfate group.
64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the first chemical group comprises a (2-sulfatoethyl)-sulphone group.
65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the first chemical group is phenyl-(2-sulfatoethyl)-sulphone.
66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein said second chemical group comprises a polymer.
67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of: a polyamine, a polyalkylene oxide, a polyol, a polyacrylate, and salts thereof.
68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the polymer is a polyamine.
69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the polymer is polyethyleneimine.
70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein said pigment is carbon black.
71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein said pigment comprises a blue pigment, black pigment, brown pigment, cyan pigment, green pigment, white pigment, violet pigment, magenta pigment, red pigment, yellow pigment, or mixtures thereof.

72. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the acylating agent comprises succinic anhydride.

73. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the polyacrylic acid comprises a polystyrene co-acrylic acid.

74. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the polyacrylic acid comprises a polystyrene co-maleic acid.

75. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the polyacrylic acid comprises a polyacrylic ester/acid polymer.

76. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the acylating agent comprises succinic anhydride.

77. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the polyacrylic acid comprises a polystyrene co-acrylic acid.

78. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the polyacrylic acid comprises a polystyrene co-maleic acid.

79. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the polyacrylic acid comprises a polyacrylic ester/acid polymer.